

May 26, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Frank Filas, Reclamation Engineer



RE: Site Inspection, Bonneville Plant, M/045/002, Tooele County, Utah

On May 20, 1988, I toured the Bonneville potash operations near Wendover with Glenn Wadsworth and John Fendt of "Reilly Wendover." Reilly Tar and Chemical Corporation has acquired the evaporation facilities and plant from Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. The bond estimate will have to be reevaluated prior to a permit transfer. The operation is currently covered under a Board contract for \$2,500 which represented the 1976 cost of trash and debris removal.

The operation consists of approximately 87,000 acres of evaporation ponds and collection ditches. The brine is located approximately 25 feet below the surface and is collected by deepening the existing ditches with a dragline down to the brine level. The brine is then channeled via pumps through a series of ponds and ditches until the concentrated brine is processed through the plant.

The plant facilities are relatively large, but it appears that most of the buildings in this area could be converted to other industrial uses if mining were to be discontinued. (Note: A number of buildings remain which belonged to an older plant site that was shut down in 1980.) In general, the plant facilities appeared to be clean and well kept.

The reclamation plan for the site does not provide for any regrading of the ponds and ditches. It was felt that the ditches would fill in naturally and that the berms would gradually weather to a low, rounded configuration. This was borne out by my personal observations during the tour of those areas which have not been used for several years.

Bonding and reclamation of the site should concentrate on removal of pumps and power lines in the pond areas and in removal of those plant structures which do not have a postmining use. Mr. Glenn Wadsworth has agreed to provide an estimate for this work.

clj
cc: L. Braxton
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ID55/8

